

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **29 Traffic Deaths Still Too Many in 2007**

Twenty-nine traffic deaths in 2007 are too many in WSP's District 4 (Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Orielle, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman Counties), but the district did experience a 31% decrease in fatality collisions in 2006. In 2007, District 4 investigated 24 fatal collisions causing 29 deaths, compared to 2006 where there were 35 fatal collisions causing 38 deaths.

Statewide, on all public roadways, there were 506 fatal collisions causing 545 deaths compared to 2006, where there were 578 fatal collisions involving 635 deaths. The reduction in fatal collisions can be attributed to community awareness and cooperation, slowing down, wearing seatbelts and not taking a chance by driving while under the influence.

Driving while under the influence, dangerous speed, aggressive driving and motorists that choose not to wear their seatbelts are still the leading contributors in traffic fatalities. Troopers will continue to focus their efforts on collision causing violations and high-collision areas in 2008 and we hope that 2008 is the safest ever.

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